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EXHIBIT 6
DATE 01-17-2011
HB 221

January 17, 2011

TO: Members of the House Appropriations Committee
From: Sarah Brown, Intern for AARP Montana
Re: Support of HB 221

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the record I am Sarah Brown, an intern for AARP Montana, an organization with over 155,000 members in this state. AARP has an initiative to address hunger in America and has launched several campaigns to bring awareness of hunger in America. HB 221 will help alleviate hunger in Montana communities and support local food banks that are trying to meet demand in these tough economic times.

A study conducted in 2008 showed that between 2006-2008, the percentage and number of poor and near-poor elderly struggling with hunger or lacking sufficient nutrition and food resources more than doubled – from 4.7% to 10.1% nationally. Montana Food Bank Network fed 282,259 citizens over 5 million pounds of food last year. I have worked for the Helena Food Share this past year and have seen individuals just like you and me in need of assistance to get nutritious food for themselves and their families. HB221 would help provide the necessary funds to buy healthy food for citizens of Montana. This money would not only help those attending the food bank, but would help stimulate the Montana economy because the one million dollars would be spent in Montana. No one plans on having to go the food bank for food, but having that service has helped thousands of Montanans get back on their feet.

AARP believes no one of any age should go hungry. Hunger among older Americans is a huge problem, but one that, if we all work together, is solvable. HB221 is an important contribution from the state to ensure that every Montanan has a healthy meal. We urge you to support HB221.